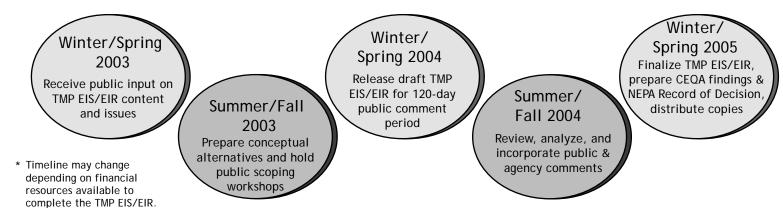
# INTERAGENCY REGIONAL TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN

### TIMELINE to Prepare Trail Management Plan and EIS/EIR \*



#### How/Where to Submit Comments

If you would like to provide us with comments on issues the TMP EIS/EIR should address, or suggestions for the content and design of the alternatives, please send, fax, or e-mail written comments to the SMMNRA Management Team (composed of Superintendent, National Park Service; Superintendent, Angeles District, California Dept. of Parks and Recreation; and Executive Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy) at the address below. Comments must be postmarked or transmitted by April 30, 2003.

Management Team Interagency Regional Trail Management Plan 401 W. Hillcrest Drive Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 FAX (805)370-1850

Comments can also be submitted via e-mail to SAMO\_trails@nps.gov. Please include your mailing address for fduture TMP EIS/EIR

For online information, go to www.nps.gov/samo/trails.



TRAIL PLANNING TEAM NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

National Park Service Newsletter #2

public

California State Parks

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Superior" alternative

March, 2003

## Trail Inventory Ending. . .

Since we sent our first newsletter in 1999, the National Park Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy have compiled a digital inventory of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area trail network. The NPS's geographic information system (GIS) now offers a database of trails; trailheads; current status and use designation; environmental conditions; and proposed new trails and trail camps. Information from the 1997 SMMART Report has been incorporated into the trail database. In this newsletter we've included highlights from the recreational visitor survey conducted in July, 2002, offering statistics on trail users and insights into how they interact with one another. You will also find data on trail characteristics collected using the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP). Additionally, the revised Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area General Management Plan (GMP) will soon be officially adopted. The GMP will set the general direction for park management.

### .Trail Management Plan & EIS/EIR Beginning

Now, the three agencies will use the inventory to draft an Interagency Regional Trail Management Plan (TMP). The TMP will consist of management statements, a trail policy map, and a joint EIS/EIR. The goal of the TMP is the create a plan that will streamline management of and improve the trail system in ways that both protect the environment and enhance visitor experience.

What's an EIS? What's an EIR? Federal and state laws require agencies to obtain input from the public on proposed projects. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the federal public scoping document for the TMP, and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is the state document. EISs & EIRs contain alternative project designs. The alternatives are developed with public input, and then serve to help agencies & the public identify the final desired form of the project. A joint EIS/EIR must be prepared for the TMP because both federal and state governments are preparing the TMP.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Additional issues? Alternative content suggestions? The first public input stage for an EIS is known as the Notice of Intent (NOI), published in the Federal Register. For and EIR, it is the Notice of Preparation(NOP), posted at the State Clearinghouse. Both documents ask the public to identify issues and suggestions for designing the alternatives. This newsletter summarizes issues already identified and invites additional public comment.

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Issues of concern to agencies and the public	Environmental sensitive plants/animals archaeological/cultural resources water resources soils and geology fire hazard	Social allowable trail uses trail use designation back country trail camps trail network public access Americans with Disabilities Act	Management new trails, trailheads, signage implementation cost maintenance interpretation/education enforcement
EIS/EIR  Alternatives conceptual, then finalized with input from agencies &	Preferred Policies and trail map reflecting a 1st choice in addressing identified issues	No Action Policies and trail map reflecting continuation of existing conditions	Other Alternatives Policies and trail maps reflecting contrasting recreational use patterns, and an "Environmentally